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Annual Report OF THE FINANCIAL AFFAIRS OF THE TOWN OF **Franconia, N. H.**

—FOR—

The Year Ending February 15, 1897,

TOGETHER WITH THE REPORTS OF THE

Superintendent of the Cemetery, the Board of Library
Trustees, and Board of Education.

LITTLETON, N. H.:
COURIER PUBLISHING COMPANY, PRINTERS,
1897.

NEW HAMPSHIRE
STATE LIBRARY

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Selectmen's Report.

TO THE TAX-PAYERS AND CITIZENS OF THE TOWN OF FRANCONIA:

The undersigned very respectfully submit the following statement of their administration of the financial interests of the town for the fiscal year ending Feb. 15, 1897.

ITEMIZED STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURES.

LUMBER.

C. A. Young	\$ 48 25
Parker & Brooks	152 36
J. M. Bickford	35 00
B. F. Andrews & Son	105 83
W. B. Chase	19 75
	—————
	\$361 19

BLACKSMITHING.

J. A. Smalley	\$5 30
J. R. Streeter	3 25
	—————
	\$8 55

LIGHTING STREETS.

George B. Clough, oil and labor	\$293 25
W. F. Parker, material	5 56
H. R. Priest, "	72
	—————
	\$299 53

SCHOOLS.

O. Parker, Tr.	\$ 966 40
W. F. Parker, material	75 09
H. R. Priest, "	10 08
	—————
	\$1,051 57

WATER.

Franconia Aqueduct Company	\$ 8 00
F. H. Gleason	2 50
H. A. Bowles	2 50
H. W. Noyes	5 00
A. Grimes	3 00
S. J. Pease	3 00
O. G. Crane	2 00
Bowles Brothers	2 50
I. H. Glover	3 00
Taft & Greenleaf, two years	6 00
W. S. Spooner	1 50
	—————
	\$39 00

LIBRARY.

C. R. Magee, for books	\$150 78
D. E. Woodward, services	50 00
	—————
	\$200 78

HIGHWAYS AND BRIDGES.

ORDINARY EXPENSES

Lewis Cadarette, for labor	\$ 50
H. P. Godard	1 20
Frank Gleason	3 00
W. J. Young	8 60
Edward Berwick	75
Thomas Golden	9 75
Peter Gosley	3 00
C. H. Gould	32 70
H. E. Spooner	28 60
David Flemer	3 00
Albert Bowles	3 60
Frank Sanborn	11 25
John Mears	9 75
Willie Wells	7 00
Joe Mussey	4 25
E. E. Bowles	35 75
W. B. Chase	3 25
Taft & Greenleaf	63 70
Alvah Berwick	3 00
J. H. Streeter	1 50
Willis Herbert	12 00
Levi J. Wells	90 70
L. F. Smith	89 55
F. G. Hatch	82 65
Elvie Aldrich	3 00
H. C. Aldrich	7 75
Thomas Aldrich	2 00

True Sanborn	21 90
B. S. Judd	18 00
W. S. Spooner	4 10
I. H. Glover	1 50
*O. G. Crane	22 50
Charles Watson	6 00
Eugene Brooks	3 00
Henry Whipple	37 95
S. J. Pease	6 00
C. H. Corey	2 50
G. N. M. Bean	1 00
J. H. Callahan	5 05
James Quimby	1 50

	\$652 80

EXTRAORDINARY EXPENSES--NEW BRIDGE NEAR "OLD GRIST-MILL"

T. A. Stevens, for labor	\$ 3 25
L. J. Wells	18 75
B. S. Judd	12 00
L. F. Smith	6 00
Eddie Commette	2 25
True Sanborn	1 50
Charles Watson	1 50
Ed. Commette	28 98
William Little, for stone	2 00
C. H. Corey, for labor	25 00
H. C. Aldrich	9 00
F. G. Hatch	6 00
D. K. Priest	65 00
Boston Bridge Works, for steel bridge	325 00

	\$506 23

REPAIRS ON THE BRIDGE NEAR THE "WILLOWS."

L. J. Wells, for labor	\$ 6 45
H. Bowles	3 00
C. Watson	1 50
C. E. Bowles	4 00
B. S. Judd	1 50
D. K. Priest	13 60

	\$30 05

REPAIRS ON LOWER BRIDGE.

L. J. Wells, for labor	\$ 9 30
C. J. Jesseman	4 50
Hibbard Bowles	4 50
Eddie Commette	5 25
B. S. Judd	8 25
Dick Munn	9 00

Edward Commette	16 50
D. K. Priest	31 05
L. W. Nute, for painting	15 00

	\$103 35

GUIDE BOARDS.

Berlin Bridge Company, for twenty-seven boards	\$13 50
B & M. railroad, for freight	1 00
Littleton Lumber Co., posts	1 80
R. C. Bean, labor	1 00
L. W. Nute, painting	4 34
E. W. Harriman, labor	2 25

	\$23 89

SIDEWALKS.

B. S. Judd, for labor	\$15 00
F. G. Hatch	14 00
F. Sanborn	18 70
H. W. Noyes	30 55

	\$58 25

DAMAGES AWARDED AND MATERIALS PURCHASED.

John Callahan, damage	\$170 30
L. M. Aldrich, right of way	2 00
Mrs. M. Brooks, material	5 00
H. E. Spooner, material and labor on E. Aldrich's bridge	21 00
W. F. Parker, material	26 13
L. B. Howard, material	93

	\$225 36

PAID ON ACCOUNT W. W. COREY.

MONEY ADVANCED FOR EXPENSES AND ATTENDANTS TO CONCORD.

Elvie Aldrich	\$ 75
George H. Burt	15 80
W. F. Parker	11 30
Charles Clark	4 00

	\$31 85

PAID ON ACCOUNT TOWN PAUPERS.

Dr. Abbott, on account W. Aldrich	\$ 4 50
Dr. McGregor, on account W. Aldrich	4 50
H. Spooner, digging grave	3 00
H. Harriman, driving hearse	2 00
H. R. Priest, cash paid as per bills on file for same	22 00
H. R. Priest, bills keeping tramps	10 50

	\$46 50

PAID FOR COUNTY PAUPERS.

H. Harriman, for burying Ira Bowen's children	\$ 4 00
H. R. Priest, cash paid as per bills on file for same	11 00
H. R. Priest, on account B. Judd	10 69

\$25 69

TOWN OFFICERS.

C. F. Edson, services as road agent	\$ 15 00
D. K. Priest, services as road agent, self and two horses	269 40
C. A. Peabody, services as policeman	2 25
G. H. Burt, policeman	8 00
L. M. Aldrich, policeman	12 40
W. J. Young, supervisor	6 00
O. Parker, supervisor	10 00
O. Parker, treasurer	15 00
W. F. Parker, moderator	2 00
W. F. Parker, auditor	2 00
C. E. Whipple, member school board	5 00
E. E. Bowles, member school board	10 00
H. H. Clark, member school board	10 00
W. B. Chase, game warden	3 00
W. A. Brooks, fence viewer	1 00
G. H. Burt, dog constable	3 00
G. H. Burt, town clerk	18 00
W. B. Chase, selectman	2 00
H. H. Clark, selectman, balance last term	21 50
H. H. Clark, selectman present term	36 00
E. E. Bowles, selectman	23 00
W. A. Brooks, selectman	29 00
I. H. Glover, collector	50 00

\$558 55

MISCELLANEOUS BILLS.

Courier Publishing Co , printing	\$ 65 69
Dr. Moffett, examination L A. Tuttle	8 00
L. A. Tuttle, additional damage	12 50
A. J. Barrett, insurance	14 00
G. H. Burt, recording marriages, births and deaths	9 30
Dr. McGregor, returning births and deaths	2 75
C. E. Eastman, blank books	22 13
H. H. Clark, appropriation for Decoration day	25 00
Dr. Morris, for printing	75

H. H. Clark, paid for expressage, telegraphing, postage, etc ,	4 90
H. H. Clark, cash paid for bounty on hawks	2 00
G. H. Burt, licensing dogs	4 60
G H. Burt, postage and express	98
W. F. Parker, stationary	59
W. A. Brooks, police badge	1 35
T. A. Stevens, erecting voting booths	50
O. Parker, use of hall	25 00
H. Spooner, labor in old cemetery	3 00
Edward Chase, taxed when over seventy years old	1 00
C. H. Gould, over tax	2 73
H. P. Godard, over tax	34
Bingham, Mitchell & Batchellor, bill for services 1894	114 32
Bingham, Mitchell & Batchellor, bill for services 1895	70 68
Bingham, Mitchell & Batchellor, bill for services 1896	65 00
	—————
	\$457 11

ABATEMENT OF TAXES.

ON TAX BILL OF 1895.

Jack Brooks	\$ 1 00
John Callahan, Jr.	1 00
Charles Forrin	1 00
Walter Goodwin	1 65
Moody Heath	1 00
Eli Laforce	1 10
Frank Locke	1 00
E. J. Miller	1 15
J. H. Streeter	30
H. S. Smith	1 00
	—————
	\$10 20

ON TAX BILL OF 1896.

W. P. Draper's estate	\$18 25
Edward Hammel	1 02
George Putney	1 37
I. H. Tewksbury	1 37
Frank Lewis	1 37
Joseph Sherburn	1 37
Ira Bowen	1 37
George Montgomery	1 37
W. P. Leavens	1 37

Edward Chase	1 37
Over tax on wild lands	21 57
	—
Total on both bills	\$51 80

SUMMARIZED STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES.

RECEIPTS.

Cash on hand Feb. 15, 1896	\$ 171 86
Received from two notes given	1,000 00
collector on tax bill of '95	102 14
" " " " '96	5,198 79
State of New Hampshire, railroad tax	133 33
" " " savings bank tax	393 44
" " " literary fund	36 40
dog tax	46 00
W. J. B. Stanley, rental	3 00
	—
Total receipts	\$7,084 96

EXPENDITURES.

For lumber	\$ 361 19
Blacksmithing	8 55
Lighting streets	299 53
Schools	1,051 57
Water	39 00
Library	200 78
Highways (ordinary expenses)	652 80

EXTRAORDINARY EXPENSES.

New bridge	506 23
Willow bridge	30 05
Lower bridge	103 35
Guide-boards	23 89
Sidewalks	58 25
Damages, etc.	225 36
On account W. W. Corey	31 85
Town paupers	46 50
County paupers	25 69
Town officers	553 55
Miscellaneous bills	457 11

State tax	810 00
County tax	795 83
Note and interest	506 25
Am't paid out by orders on the treasurer	\$6,787 34
Cash in treasury	297 62
	\$7,084 96

LIABILITIES OF THE TOWN.

C. E. Whipple, note and interest, 4 per cent	\$ 498 79
" " " " "	269 75
Joel Spooner " " " "	287 07
H. W. Noyes " " " "	1,458 82
Elmore Whipple " " " "	374 89
Lydia Spooner " " " "	220 24
" " " " "	114 54
Henry Spooner " " " "	458 21
D. K. Priest " " " "	568 04
Emma C. Hildreth " " " "	295 37
Lucy Godard " " " "	318 76
H. P. Godard " " " "	159 38
Emma J. Cheney " " " "	52 93
E. H. Goodnow " " 3 1-2 per cent.	523 08
The Dow cemetery fund	100 00
The Dr. Moody, cemetery fund	28 00
Dr. Morris' bill, for services as health officer	41 55
" " " " attendance upon Mrs.	
Ira Bowen	12 25
Dr. Morris, for reporting births and deaths	2 50
	\$5,784 17

There are no orders outstanding and no bills unadjusted, so far as we know.

ASSETS OF THE TOWN.

Due from Mrs. H. Knight	\$ 120 00
Grafton county	
Pauper bill, 1896	57 00
" " 1897	37 94
From town of Livermore, one-half ex- pense of running line in '92	18 75
Interest on same to date	3 35
C. F. Edson, road agent money, una- countable for in 1896	41 22

On tax bill of 1893	467 90
" " " 1894	64 88
" " " 1896	100 00
" highway bills for 1892	6 27
From W. W. Corey, money advanced for attendants and expenses to Concord	31 85
State of New Hampshire, bounty on hawks	3 00

Cash in treasury	\$962 16
	297 62

	\$1,259 78
Total debt, Feb. 15, 1897	4,524 39

	\$5,784 17

Franconia, N. H., Feb. 24th, 1897.

I hereby certify that I, acting under appointment by the Selectmen, have carefully examined the foregoing accounts of the Selectmen, and that I have found all the expenditures properly vouched and the accounts accurately cast.

G. H. BURT, AUDITOR.

EXPLANATIONS, ESTIMATES AND SUGGESTIONS.

The total disbursements of the town during the last fiscal year, as shown in another place, were \$6787.34 or about 1.73 per cent. of the last valuation.

The town voted at the last annual meeting to raise for all purposes 1.3 per cent. on the valuation: this would amount to \$5097.01.

Knowing full well that this sum would not meet the demands made upon us with the bridges in the condition in which we found them, we followed the instructions given us in Sec. 3, Chap. 59 of the Public Statutes which read as follows: "The selectmen may assess a sum not exceeding five per cent. more than the amount of such tax, to answer any abatements that may be made, which shall be paid into the town treasury for the use of the town."

While this advance of 5 per cent. is merely a nominal addition to each individual tax,—6.5 cents on each one hundred dollars, it increased the tax in the aggregate from \$5097.01 to \$5351.86.

When we compare this sum, less the necessary abatements, with the and actual expenditures of the year,—\$6787.34, we feel sure that the wisdom of this action cannot be questioned.

The total expenditure for highways and bridges has been \$2245.92. Assuming the length of all the highways in the town to be thirty miles they have cost us \$74.86 per mile, or about .57 of one per cent on the valuation. If this statement seems unfair, since we have, during the year, purchased and placed over one of our streams a fine steel bridge at a cost of \$506.63, exclusive of the lumber, and thoroughly repaired four other bridges and painted one—the "lower" one, let us consider the two items for labor of men and teams alone including road agent's bills, viz. \$937.20, and our highways have cost us \$31.24 per mile, or about 6.24 of one per cent. of the valuation.

Unless some unforeseen event shall occur, the undersigned cannot estimate the highway bills for the next fiscal year, at the outside, over \$1200.00 to \$1500.00 including bills for lumber. It will be necessary in our opinion to construct a new bridge near the residence of A. W. Bowles, at an estimated expense of from \$300.00 to \$400.00 for steel.

The repairs on the highways and bridges, then, during the next fiscal year ought not, we think, to cost, under economical management, more than .4 of one per cent. on the last valuation.

The State and County taxes for the last fiscal year were \$1683.33 or about .4 of one per cent. of the valuation. We have no reason to expect any reduction in this item for the next year. The balance of expenditures, which we may call "town charges," were during the last year \$2937.59 or about .75 of one per cent. of the valuation.

This item under ordinary circumstances ought to be reduced, we think, from 6 to 10 per cent. during the next fiscal year. We might point out some items in our list of expenditures for the past year to justify this estimate but the list is open to the inspection of all.

We therefore beg to recommend that the town raise .4 of one per cent. of the valuation for the maintenance of highways and bridges, an equal sum to pay the State and County taxes and .6 of one per cent. to defray all other necessary town charges or about 1.4 per cent. of the valuation for all purposes.

We believe these are conservative estimates, and that the town cannot meet its obligations in a manner compatible with its own dignity with a smaller sum of money.

While we would advise that the town debt be not increased by failure to raise a sufficient sum of money to meet the current expenses, neither would we advise that the tax payers be overburdened to pay the indebtedness. Whether in the experience of an individual or of a town a small debt is always a healthy incentive to economy, and in this instance it has the additional advantage of providing a safe and desirable investment for our citizens.

We are of opinion, however, that the money can be obtained at a less rate of interest than we are paying.

We beg to suggest further that \$150.00 be appropriated for the purchase of books for the public library and \$50.00 for the

salary of the librarian, and that \$25.00 be appropriated for the observance of Decoration day.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

HENRY H. CLARK, } SELECTMEN
E. E. BOWLES, } OF
W. A. BROOKS, } FRANCONIA

Franconia, N. H., Feb. 24th, 1897.

It may be of interest to compare the inventory of the taxable property of 1895 with that of 1896, as given below, and we append it; also the answers to questions proposed by the State Board of Agriculture.

	1895		1896	
	Number	Value	Number	Value
Polls	167	\$ 16,700	176	\$ 17,600
Improved and unimproved lands and buildings		307,758		308,309
Horses	235	11,055	239	11,395
Asses and mules	1	15	1	15
Oxen	16	735	24	1,060
Cows	207	5,003	220	5,591
Other neat stock			3	70
Sheep	81	140	36	105
Hogs			17	80
Carriages		3,500		3,500
Stock in banks		7,400		5,800
Money at interest		14,550		27,463
Stock in trade		5,850		7,600
Aqueducts		1,000		1,000
Mills and machinery		1,600		2,450
 Total valuation		\$375,306		\$392,078
Amount of taxes levied		3,753 06		5,351 86
Rate of taxation		1 per cent.		1.365 per cent.

The following information was furnished the State Board of Agriculture for the year 1895, gathered from the most reliable data within our reach:

10,000 pounds of butter were made during the year
 4,000 " " cheese
 129,600 gallons of milk produced
 180 pounds wool grown
 5 silos in use
 200 tons ensilage fed
 32 tons commercial fertilizer used
 \$150,000 00 cash taken from summer boarders

REPORT OF THE SCHOOL BOARD.

The undersigned take pleasure in again calling attention of their fellow citizens to the almost ideal condition in which we find our schools, to the excellent work that has been done in them, and the most commendable progress that has been made by our children during the past year.

As usual we have maintained two schools, during the full school year of thirty-five weeks, on the lower floor of the Academy building.

In these schools, under the most excellent management of Miss Chutter and Miss Grover, most commendable and satisfactory work has been done. These ladies are finely equipped, both by nature and culture, for the positions they occupy and our people, we think, appreciate in a measure, at least, their faithful and efficient work.

We feel constrained to say however, that, in our opinion, some of our parents anticipate too much. The so-called primary room was not intended to be used as a nursery, and should not be so treated.

Nearly one-fourth of the children that daily assemble in this room are too young to attend school with profit to themselves or to others. It is our belief that these "babies" would be much more profitably employed with their mothers for a year or two at least.

It has been the intention of the School Board to provide these schools with every new and approved aid that could be obtained for the advantage of our children. We have therefore, we think, generously responded to every reasonable demand made upon us by the teachers and parents. We have provided the newest and most approved text-books on all subjects, supplementary readers, books of reference, paper, pencils, etc., etc. We take especial pleasure here in recording the fact that we have recently introduced Industrial Drawing into both schools, and that a beginning has been made creditable alike to the energy of the teachers and the skill of the "little folks."

SCHOOL FUNDS.

We have received and covered into the district treasury as follows:

From the town, raised by taxation	\$ 825 00
" " dog money, 1896	44 00
" " " 1897	46 00
" " interest on school lot, two years	12 00
State of New Hampshire, literary fund	36 40
W. J. B. Stanley, rental	3 00
H. R. Priest, "	30 00
N. W. Cheney, "	10 00
Tuition	31 00
Balance left from last year	2 68
<hr/>	
Total	\$1,040 08

It will be remembered that the rate of taxation has recently been advanced from \$400.00 to \$500.00 for every dollar or part thereof of the public apportionment. The apportionment for Franconia is \$1.65. The advance, then, from \$400.00 to \$500.00 will increase the sum of money that the town is required to appropriate for the maintenance of schools from \$660.00 as heretofore to \$825.00.

In closing we beg to urge our fellow citizens, every one, to rally to the support of our schools. Beyond all question our schools are of the very first order. Let us recognize and honestly admit this fact. Let there be no kicking or grumbling. Let our people visit the schools; let them examine attentively the textbooks and material furnished, let them compare it carefully with the aids (?) provided twenty-five, or even ten, years ago, let them carefully study the methods employed and the results attained and compare them with the methods and results of the last generation, let them do this honestly and all criticism and fault-finding will change into admiration and praise. The result is inevitable.

If, then, any person shall be heard in public or private finding fault with our schools as they exist today, one of two conclusions is inevitable—either that person is not honest or he is not well informed.

We make this statement knowing full well what it means and hold ourselves in readiness to defend it.

HENRY H. CLARK, } SCHOOL BOARD
C. E. WHIPPLE, } OF
E. E. BOWLES, } FRANCONIA

Franconia, N. H., Feb. 24th, 1897.

REPORT OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES.

It is again the privilege of the undersigned to call the attention of their fellow citizens to the condition and growth of our library. During the fiscal year ending Feb. 15, 1897. There has come into our hands as follows:

Balance in the treasury Feb, 15, 1896	\$ 1 21
By vote of the town	150 00
In fines	7 40
For sale of cards	2 26
Donation	50
<hr/>	
A total available sum of	\$161 37
 Of this we have expended as follows:	
For books	\$150 78
Freight on books	3 48
Fuel	1 15
Oil	1 54
Incidentals, labels, stationary, ink, mucilage, etc.	1 03
<hr/>	
Total expenditure	\$157 98
Balance in treasury	3 39
<hr/>	
	\$161 37

From the report of the librarian covering the past year, now before us, it appears that the library is deservedly increasing in popularity. During the year an equivalent of 2314 books have been loaned.

Of this number

2163	or about 93.475 per cent.	are classed as fiction
31	"	1.339
26	"	1.124
16	"	1.988
48	"	2.074
		"
		biography
		history
		travel
		miscellaneous

The literary tastes of our readers are clearly indicated by the above, and the direction in which these tastes are being developed is as clearly indicated by comparing the above with a parallel statement of the classes of books read during the previous fiscal year.

Whole number of books loaned during the fiscal year closing Feb. 15, 1896, 2236.

Of this number

2021	or about 90.385	per cent, are classed as fiction
50	" 2.236	" biography
53	" 2.361	" history
42	" 1.869	" travel
70	" 3.136	" miscellaneous

During the fiscal year ending Feb. 15, 1895 only 86 per cent. of the books loaned were works of fiction.

Through the characteristic generosity of our taxpayers we have been enabled to place upon the shelves of the library during the last year 164 new books. We have now a total of 1258 volumes. From this number the trustees at their last annual inspection deemed it necessary to withdraw from circulation about fifty volumes with the purpose of having them rebound in order to preserve them.

We regret to notice that many of these books indicate some degree of hard usage. We are forced to the conclusion that had these books received as careful treatment as they ought, we should now be able to expend the money in the purchase of new books that we are obliged to expend for rebinding old ones. We desire to urge upon the patrons of our library the desirability of handling the books with extreme care.

Only one book has been lost and this by parties who are abundantly able and willing to replace it.

Acting under instructions voted at the last annual meeting, the trustees have placed upon the books and furniture an insurance of \$800.00

We beg to suggest that the usual sum of \$150.00 be appropriated for the purchase of new books and \$50.00 for the services of the librarian; and that the trustees be instructed to keep the books and furniture covered by a reasonable insurance.

At the expenditure of much time and labor the trustees have as usual, exercised great care in the selection of books. We have endeavored to select only those books whose moral and religious tone should be helpful and elevating, rigidly rejecting all others. We may have made mistakes. We are busy men and have not had the time to read each book and carefully weigh its merits and demerits. We have acted conscientiously up to the

best light and opportunity that we have had. We have received no compensation; we desire none. Our labors have been most cheerfully performed and we confidently submit the result to the charitable judgment of our fellow citizens.

HENRY H. CLARK,
WILBUR F. PARKER, } TRUSTEES

THE CEMETERY.

In the fruitless attempt to appoint a superintendent who would be acceptable to all our people, the undersigned repeatedly urged the position upon several of their fellow citizens, and were steadily refused. We did not, therefore, delegate the authority. We have received moneys as follows:

H. W. Noyes, balance from last year	\$21 45
Mrs. S. D. Nute, sale of lot	10 00
C. J. Dexter, " "	10 00
Total	\$41 45
We have disbursed as follows:	
Henry Harriman, for labor	\$18 25
C. H. Gould	2 50
Moses Wells	3 00
H. H. Clark, for labor and oversight	4 25
Total	\$28 00

This leaves a balance in our hands of \$13 45

There is still due the Cemetery for lots sold and unpaid as follows:

From C. H. Locke	\$ 10 00
G. A. Quimby	10 00
Henry Harriman	10 00
J. W. Bean	10 00
G. F. Smith	10 00
B. S. Judd	10 00
J. C. Bostwick	10 00
A. Jesseman	10 00
C. Jesseman	10 00
H. Aldrich	10 00
Mrs. H. Knight	10 00
G. H. Burt	10 00
T. Quimby	10 00
Ira Bowen	10 00
Charles Knight	10 00
J. R. Streeter	10 00
Total	\$160 00

Nearly all of this sum is "good" and against "good" parties, and we could wish, and beg to urge, that each delinquent arrange

to adjust this little bill before another report shall be issued. While it may be his clear duty, no Superintendent is willing to "dunn" one of his townsmen for a bill of this nature, and we allow ourselves to become, not indifferent, but careless.

Some of the lots are very desirably located and would be readily selected and paid for by other parties if they were not occupied. We beg to suggest, therefore, in the interest of fairness to all parties, that the Superintendent of the Cemetery, acting in concert with the Selectmen, be authorized after the first day of April, 1898, to remove any body or bodies from any lot, the owner (?) of which shall at that time be in arrears in payment, and to re-inter such body or bodies in any other less desirable lot at the expense of the town and to dispose of the lots thus vacated in accordance with the best interest of the town.

We beg to suggest, further, that the plan of the Cemetery be recorded in the town clerk's office, and preserved there as a permanent record; that the lots thereon be correctly numbered; that the name of the individual or family owning a lot be recorded against the number of such lot; and that a receipt from the Superintendent or from the Selectmen be evidence of such ownership.

The undersigned would suggest further that all who own lots in the Cemetery take more pains during the season to dress and care for them. If each one interested would spend even a few hours there in legitimate labor each season, the Cemetery would soon be much improved. The Superintendent does not like to enter upon the lots of others, even to improve them, however much these lots may need improvement, and the result is that some lots are shamefully neglected. A stranger could easily believe that the friends of some who sleep in this yard are themselves all sleeping. This ought not so to be. The living do not like to think of sleeping in a neglec'ed grave. We do not relish the thought of being forgotten in thought and deed by our friends so soon after we shall fall asleep. Though this life is a busy one, let us take sufficient time to make bright and beautiful the spot where rest the ashes of those who once made our homes beautiful by their presence.

All of which is very respectfully submitted.

HENRY H. CLARK, } SELECTMEN
E. E. BOWLES, } OF
W. A. BROOKS. } FRANCONIA.

Births Registered in the Town of Franconia, N. H., for the Year Ending December 31, 1896.

Date of Birth 1896	Name of Child (if any.)	Sex	Color	Living or Stillborn No. of Children 1st, 2d, etc.	Father's Name	Mother's Name	Residence	Father's Occupation	Father's Birthplace	Mother's Birthplace	Mother's Age
Jan 29		F	W	4	Charles N Knight	Minnie D Clement	Franconia	Farmer	Franconia	Warren	51
Feb 18		M	M	5	Charles Kenneth	Cora Gilman	B House Keiper	Farmer	B House Keiper	Thornton	37
April 3		M	M	2	Ed Hinne	Mary Fleming	St Pat Canada	Farmer	St Pat Canada	Mass	30
May 1		F	M	2	Ira H Bowen	Elizabeth A Dyke	Bromfield	Laborer	Bromfield	St Giles Can'd	29
May 15		M	M	1	Jethro B Root	Abbie B Hatch	Stratford	St Albans	St Albans	Vt	27
May 17		F	M	1	Henry A Peabody	Stella M Phillips	Nova Scotia	Carpenter	Nova Scotia	Stratford	25
May 31		M	M	3	Frank H Drown	Blandina Haynes	Littleton	Farmer	East Haven	England	22
June 23		M	M	1	Joseph Smith	Syria Smith	England	Laborer	England	Woodstock	22
July 25		F	F	5	Francis W Colby	Daisy M Sawyer	Woodstock	"	"	Orford	22
Aug 16		F	F	3	Frances R Pease	Mabel Sherburne	Vermont	"	"	Ellsworth	22
Sept 6		M	M	2	Joseph Delage	Evelia Fortier	St Agathe Can'd	"	"	St Agathe Can'd	21
Sept 10		S	F	1	Dwight S Heath	Mary E Shallow	St Johnsbury	"	"	Whitefield	21
Oct 28		S	F	2	Elmer E Clark	Minnie M Smith	Prince E Is'd	Carpenter	Prince E Is'd	Lisbon	21
Dec 16		M	L	2	Flavius A Harris	Iva A Peabody	Rathbun	Hotel Keeper	Rathbun	Stratford	21
					Albert Richardson	Alma I Dennis	"	"	"	"	27

Marriages Registered in the Town of Franconia, N. H., for the Year Ending December 31, 1896.

Date of Marriage	Place of Marriage.	Name and Surname of Groom and Bride.	Residence of each at time of Marriage.	Age and color of each		Occupation of Groom and Bride.	Place of Birth of each	Name of Parents.	Occupation.	Condition of person by whom married.	Name, Residence and official Station of person by whom married.
				Age	Color						
Aug. 11	Littleton	Arthur C. Pease	Franconia	23	W	Farmer	Rumney	Samuel J. Pease	Farmer	1	Rev J B Merrill Littleton
		Mattie E Merrill	Easton	20		Mechanic	Easton	Sarah J Pease	Farmer		
		George H Streeter	Franconia	61		Housekeeper	Easton	Charles H Merrill	Farmer		
		Mary E Elwell	Winthrop, Mass	46		Farmer	Brockton, Ms.	Miranda Merrill	Farmer	3	Geo W Kendall Easton J P
		Ora E Bowles	Franconia	39		Farmer	Lisbon	David Streeter	Farmer	2	
		Belle E Thayer	Thornton	19		Housework	Littleton	Sylvia Streeter	Farmer		
		Willie L Tillotson	Franconia	32		Farmer	Bakersfield, Vt	Ellis C Morton	Farmer	2	Rv W H Eastman
Oct. 12	Franconia	Ellen M Marcott	Franconia	23		Housekeeper	O Tilt's'n	Almeda N Bowles	Farmer	1	
								Curtis P Thayer	Farmer		
								Fliza Thayer	Farmer		
								Ste'h'n O Tilt's'n	Farmer	2	Henry H Clark Franconia J P
								James R Marcott	Farmer	1	
								Sophna S Marcott	Farmer		

Deaths Registered in the Town of Franconia, N. H., for the Year Ending December 31, 1896.

I hereby certify that the above returns are correct, *G. H. BURT, Town Clerk.*

